

# TSA Travel Tips

TSA screens nearly 1.8 million passengers every day at more than 450 airports nationwide. TSA is committed to helping passengers understand the security screening process in order to improve their travel experience.

Before they go, here is what passengers need to know:

## **Prohibited Items**

For the safety and security of the traveling public, TSA, FAA and airlines have prohibited certain items from being brought onto airplanes in carry-on and checked luggage. To help passengers plan ahead and avoid possible additional screening, the TSA website features a detailed prohibited



items list under the travelers information tab and also the "Can I Bring...?" tool found on the home page. It's important to know that even if an item is generally permitted, it may be subject to additional screening or not allowed through the checkpoint if it triggers an alarm during the screening process, appears to have been tampered with or poses other security concerns.



## 3-1-1 Liquids Rules

Liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes, in limited quantities, are safe to bring in carry-on baggage and must comply with the following rules:

- 3.4 ounces or less for liquids, gels, aerosols, creams and pastes.
- 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag to hold the liquids.
- 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin.

## TSA Contact Center

The TSA Contact Center is here to help travelers prepare for upcoming flights. Whatever your question about traveling through TSA security, whether regarding the checkpoint or checked baggage, TSA representatives are here to answer your questions.

### Weekdays

8 a.m. - 11 p.m. Eastern Time

## Weekends/Holidays

9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Eastern Time

#### **Email**

TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov

#### **Phone**

866-289-9673

#### Talk to TSA

In addition to speaking with a Contact Center representative, passengers can provide feedback or request information by using the Talk to TSA online inquiry form at apps.tsa.dhs.gov/talktotsa

Medically required liquids such as baby formula and food, breast milk and medications are allowed in excess of 3.4 ounces and must be declared to a TSA officer at the beginning of the screening process.

## **Acceptable IDs**

Adult passengers (18 and over) are required to show a valid U.S. federal or state-issued photo ID in order to be allowed to go through the security checkpoint and onto their flight. We understand passengers occasionally arrive at the airport without an ID, due to lost items or inadvertently leaving them at home. Not having an ID does not necessarily mean a passenger won't be allowed to fly. If passengers are willing to provide additional information, we have other means of substantiating someone's identity, like using publicly available databases. Passengers who are cleared through this process may be subject to additional screening. Passengers whose identity cannot be verified by TSA may not be allowed to enter the screening checkpoint or onto an airplane.



## "My TSA" Mobile App

"My TSA" is a mobile application that features a "Can I Bring...?" field where passengers enter the name of an item to find out if it is allowed in carry-on or checked baggage. There is also information on ID requirements, liquids rules and real-time operating status for U.S. airports from the Federal Aviation Administration plus additional travel tips. To access the mobile web version of "My TSA" on a mobile device, visit tsa.gov/mobile. Native iOS and Android versions of "My TSA" are available on iTunes and Google Play.

## TSA Cares and Wounded Warriors

TSA Cares is a helpline designed to assist travelers with disabilities and medical conditions. Travelers can ask questions about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the security checkpoint prior to traveling. In addition, TSA Cares facilitates the screening process for wounded service members and veterans including individuals associated with a wounded warrior program. Travelers may also request a passenger support specialist to provide assistance at the airport.



#### **TSA Cares**

## Weekdays

8 a.m. - 11 p.m. Eastern Time

#### Weekends/Holidays

9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Eastern Time

## Phone

855-787-2227

Travelers who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to contact TSA Cares or can e-mail TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov.

## **Screening Technology**

TSA uses advanced imaging technology and walk-through medtal detectors to screen passengers. If a passenger is selected for this screening, they will have the option to request a pat-down as an alternative. Whenever possible, the pat-down will be performed by a same-gender officer.

## **Additional Travel Tips**

- » Double-check carry-on baggage before leaving home to remove prohibited items, such as firearms and knives. When in doubt, leave it out.
- » When packing, de-clutter and organize carry-on baggage to facilitate screening.
- » Arrive at the airport early. Travelers are encouraged to arrive two hours before your scheduled departure time.
- » Wear slip-on shoes. This allows travelers to remove and replace their shoes quickly without the need to sit down.
- » Consolidate 3.4 ounce liquid bottles into a one quart transparent plastic bag and remove them from your carry-on. Take out laptops as well.
- » If traveling with pets, remove them from their carrying cases and place the case through the X-ray machine. A leash will help maintain control of your pet while traveling. Remember to remove the leash when carrying your pet through the metal detector.

